



2009 Water Quality

How's the Water this Year?

We're pleased to present to you our Consumer Confidence Report detailing the water quality for the calendar year of 2009. We are proud to say that your water is very clean and healthy. This Report includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards. We are happy to show you how we have surpassed those water-quality standards.

The source of your drinking water:

Your drinking water is obtained from a well that is drilled into the ground to reach water bearing layers beneath the surface called an aquifer. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Water in the natural environment is never totally pure but contains impurities referred to as contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Supply Division of the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) and the State of Vermont Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Some "contaminants" may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful but are undesirable in drinking water since they cause discoloration, taste or odor. In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, TPW Management tests it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial organisms*, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic chemicals*, such as salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Synthetic Organic chemicals*, such as pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, residential uses and improper disposal of household chemicals.
- *Volatile Organic chemicals*, such as gasoline and solvents that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, septic systems and improper disposal of household chemicals.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs or MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

90th Percentile: Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (nine out of ten sites sampled were at or below this level)

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year

TABLE 1

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Years of 2009				

TABLE 2

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
NITRATE	7/15/2009	0.52	0.52	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 3

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	2/13/2009	1.42	1.42	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	2/13/2009	2.8	2.8	pCi/L	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 4

Disinfection ByProducts	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009							

TABLE 5

Lead and Copper	Date	90 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009								

Violation(s) that occurred during the year: No violations occurred in the Calendar year of 2009.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Supply Division (1-800-823-6500) or USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Bears Crossing water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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Vulnerable Population:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Water System Operation:

This water system consists of pumps, piping, storage tanks, pressure tanks, electrical controls, chemical feed systems and other mechanical devices to bring the water out of the ground and deliver it to your faucet. This system is maintained and monitored by State of Vermont Certified Public Water System Operators trained and employed by TPW. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We attend continuing education courses to maintain our certification to stay up to date with the ever changing regulations. We are proud that we can deliver this high quality of water to you.

Get Involved!!!

We want the consumer to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact:

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